

**Saline Township Planning Commission
Regular Meeting, August 2, 2011**

Members Present:

Neil Bohnett, Trudy Feldkamp, Laurie Leinbach, Gary Luckhardt,
Robert Prehn, Chuck Rankin, Richard Zahn

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Jim Marion, Robert Marion, Doug Lewan, Dan Cabage

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm., Charles Rankin presiding.

Roll was taken; quorum established.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Luckhardt.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 7, 2011: Motion by Bohnett; support by Zahn; vote; minutes approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda, August 2, 2011: Motion by Bohnett to approve as presented, support by Luckhardt; vote; agenda approved unanimously.

Announcements

- 1) Rick Olsen will attend the Township Board meeting in August.

Call to the Public

Suggestion that blight ordinance should include grass maintenance. Individual lives in the Jordan/Macon subdivision. Lawns can degrade the neighborhood. For building not attended to.

Bohnett said this is a tough call and has been discussed previously. Zahn agreed, this is a previous issue.

James Drive resident, there is not a real association in that neighborhood.

Prehn, any ordinance needs to be enforced. He has visited the property in question. The lawn was cut. There is a property on the corner with a berm issue; not in compliance with the ordinance.

Resident, requesting for subdivisions only. They have managed fine for 35 years without an association.

J. Marion asked Doug Lewan to comment on Scio Township, which is more develop than Saline Township. They have no lawn or grass ordinance. The subdivisions are well organized and the associations have by-laws regarding lawns. All is very legal and enforceable.

Rankin, the property on the corner with the berm is illegal right now, there is cement, the Township is pursuing action.

R. Marion, has received calls from subdivision residents about other issues. Does not want to get into spot zoning.

Leinbach, had similar situation, enforcement would be difficult.

Resident asked if there are any other platted subdivisions in the

Township.

Prehn, if an ordinance is created for grass only, what would be next?

Prehn: Motion that the Blight ordinance stay as written, support Leinbach. Bohnett-y, Feldkamp-y, Leinbach-y, Luckhardt-y, Prehn-y, Zahn-y, Rankin-y; motion passed.

Public Hearing

Open at 8:10.

In paragraph b, 3.202.A - last word should be parcels

3.202.D - 3 to be only bodies of water

3.202.D - 4 and 5 to be removed. As not publicized, will make change with next amendment change.

J. Marion, this is in line with State language and Scio has same and it has been challenged and upheld. The Township enforces and County will be a help with record keeping.

Prehn: Motion to accept with the wording change; Bohnett support. Bohnett-y, Feldkamp-y, Leinbach-y, Luckhardt-y, Prehn-y, Zahn-y, Rankin-y; motion passed.

Close public hearing, motion by Bohnett, support by Zahn, vote unanimous, public hearing closed at 8:23 pm.

Home Occupation, use of word nuisance, was discussed with Prehn and Lucas. Prehn: Motion to leave the ordinance as written (nuisance in two paragraphs), Bohnett support; voice vote unanimous in favor of motion, motion passed.

New Business

A. Items from the Board.

1. Citizen in Oak Park Estates would like the Township to have a grass ordinance. Discussed earlier.
2. Limestone on roads will start on Monday. Bridge inspections also. Damage on Lindsley Road to be repaired. Jordan Road culvert to be repaired.
3. Ordinance updates/amendments will be placed at the beginning of ordinance copies until next printing. Need to check with Pennington regarding the updated version. Rankin will call.

Old Business

A. Clink followup.

There are permits from County for dumping; payments for dozing; on-going permit. Prehn, Rankin and R. Marion, none recall seeing a permit. Environmental report, with County at least three years. It is requested of Mr. Clink to get a copy of the permit to Rankin. Township attorney will review and will make sure it is sufficient for

the Township.

Doug Lewan has a copy of a review from August 2010. Because it is a special land use, the Township can request additional measures, as long as it is tied to the permitting process. Mr. Clink would like to progress with the process. He will get the information as items on the checklist are completed.

B. Other

1. J. Marion received call regarding National Flood Insurance. He has discussed with local insurance agent. If the Township belongs, we would need to police where people build.
2. Niethammer site. Cabage gravel pit inspections. Need to discuss the pond issue before site visit.

Public Comments

None

Bohnett moved for adjournment, Zahn support; vote; meeting adjourned, 9:00 p.m. Next Regular Meeting on October 4, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Trudy Feldkamp
Saline Township Planning Commission, Secretary